

I deem it my imperative duty, without reserve, to lay the matter before you in detail, that the reproach may rest where it properly belongs, and in the confident hope and belief that this General Assembly will, by prompt action, show to the country its appreciation of what is just and proper, and give full and rightful weight to the manifest voice and will of the people.

The entire population of the State, by the census of 1870, is *one million seventy-one thousand four hundred and fifty*, making *twenty-one thousand four hundred and twenty-nine* inhabitants the exact number each Senate District should contain, if perfect exactness could be attained. But the Constitution does not require perfect exactness. It requires an approximation "*as nearly as may be.*" This approximation can, in all cases, be very nearly attained by grouping counties together, and when some of the more populous counties must be embraced in a district, by making it large enough to take more than one Senator, thus equalizing and giving weight to every large excess in a county. Eight of the districts in the present apportionment have allotted to them two Senators, instead of one. But this appears not to have been done in scarcely a single locality, where it was necessary to secure an approximation to equality in the number of inhabitants. The Convention, which ordained the former apportionment, had only the census of 1860 for a guide. The changes wrought by the war, in the relative population of the counties and sections of the State, rendered the *data* of the census of 1860 unreliable. In consequence of this, some inequality occurred which was disclosed by the census of 1870. To correct this inequality was the only plausible reason for hastening, under doubtful authority, a new apportionment. It is remarkable that the new apportionment, undertaken for such reason, should be made more unequal and unfair than the one it was intended to correct. Having the census of 1870 before them, it is difficult to conceive how it was possible for the last Legis-